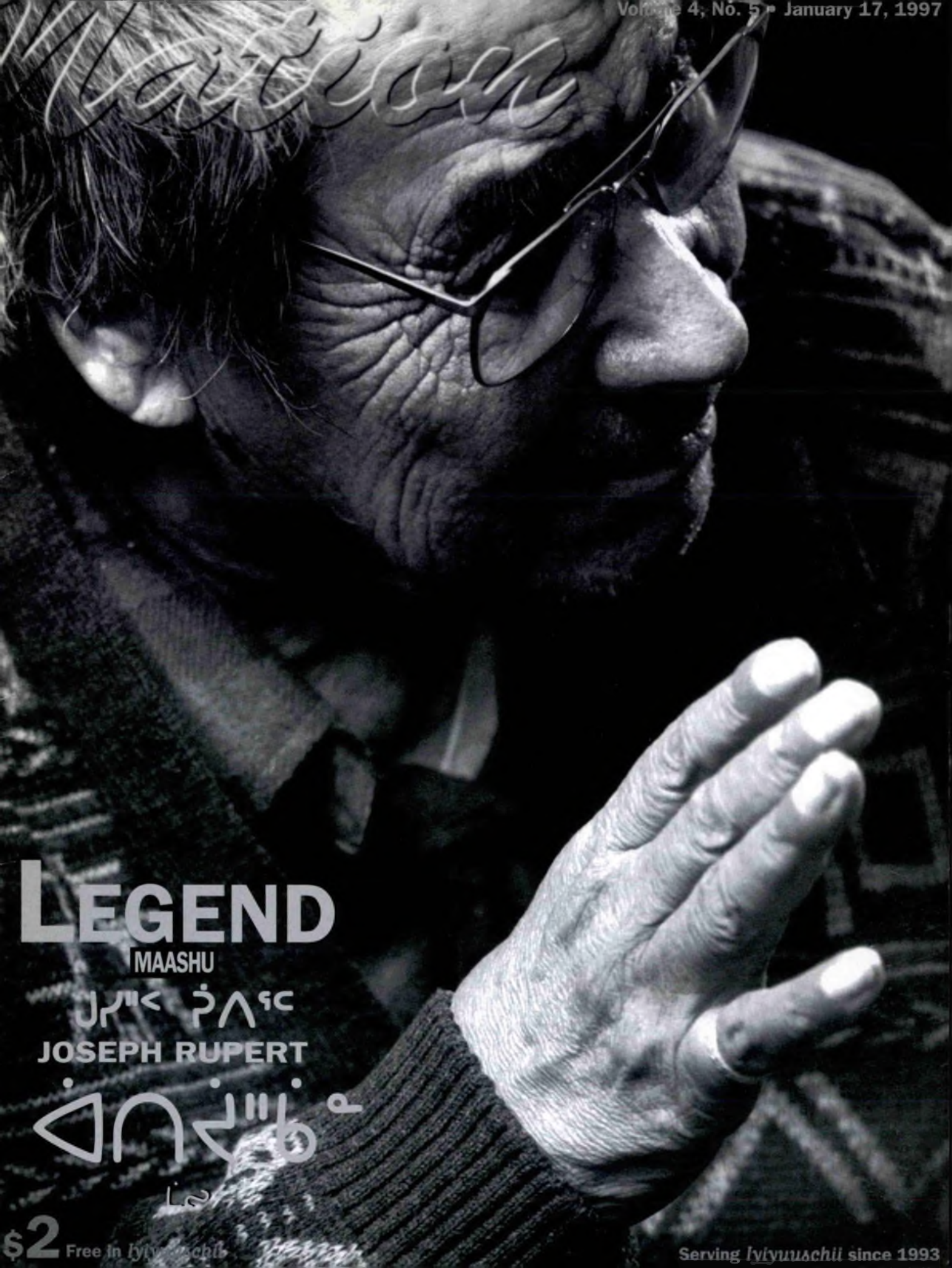
Volume 4, No. 5 • January 17, 1997

Nunatsiaq



LEGEND

MAASHU

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JOSEPH RUPERT

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Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay

Story on a community

Once there was a thriving community, and one day two brothers were out fishing. While they were out fishing they found two shining balls floating on the water. They took these balls home with them. When they got home they realized these balls were eggs because they hatched. The two beings that appeared from them were hungry, so the brothers fed them. Soon they spent all their time feeding them. The appetite of these beings was so great that the community had no time to do anything but feed them. Even the effort of the entire community could not satisfy their appetite. These beings began to eat the children, the elderly and the feeble, who were all neglected now by the community. Eventually the entire community was lost. The Elders say these two beings were alcohol and money.

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COVER PHOTO
Joseph Rupert of Chisasibi.
Photo by Neil Diamond.

JANUARY 31, 1997

REZ NOTES

An invasion of muskoxen... oxes?... oxi? The usual UFO sightings. A close encounter with **Jimmy Herman**. Cree brave urinates on a Val d'Or police cruiser. Juvenile delinquents arrested at Chisasibi "commercial." A postcard from Cuba. Reader's poll comments. Film at eleven.

I miss those dramatic intros to T.V. news shows back in the days before instantaneous video. It could be my imagination but I have vague memories of sideburned, polyester-clad anchormen kicking off their broadcasts with over-dramatized teasers and this apocalyptic music playing in the background. I guess everyone had to wait until eleven for the pictures back then. And would watch the news at six o'clock with only badly dressed anchors suffering bad hair years reading the news. They've come a long way, babies.

A CREE YOUTH at the Val d'Or tournament stepped up to a parked police cruiser and whipped out his penis and proceeded to piss on said vehicle. The cops got out and turned him around towards the curb. One of the constables was overheard saying to the other, in French, "He's very lucky there's witnesses around." And the party continued.

A MUSKOX WAS spotted by **Samuel Cox** of Chisasibi not too long ago. The theory is that it followed a caribou herd from the great white North. Someone who does not want their name to appear said more than 10were spotted far inland. Mmmmm. Muskox burgers. I think I tried those at the Spirit of the Arctic pavillion in T.O. two years ago. They smelled like fish but tasted like chicken.

THERE WAS THE usual UFO sighting just outside Chisasibi. Several hovering lights were spotted by the guys who work at the security gate confiscating alcohol. Someone oughta appoint a commission, I tell ya.

WE HAVE RECEIVED several entries for our Win-A-Date-With-Erland-Contest. One postcard was addressed to the International **Erland Campbell** Fan Club and reads, *"Hi! I came across your magazine while vacationing in Cuba* (Does **Fidel** have a subscription??) *It's a fantastic magazine - keep up the good work! I was reading about "Mr. Entertainment" and was hoping that I'm not too late to enter the "Win-A-Date-With-Erland-Contest." McDonald's and a movie would be great - after all it is the company that counts! What more could one ask for than "Mr. Entertainment"?? I'm 6' 1" and attractive and I'll be back in Montreal by the time you get this. Thanks!"* Keep those

STELLA MARK

postcards coming readers and you could be the lucky winner and get to "know" Erland. After dinner at a fancy McDonald's and a romantic movie of your choice.

DON'T FORGET OUR Photo-With-Celebrity-Contest. So far we have two entries. Our distinguished panel of judges will select the winner based on following criteria. The most famous celebrity will receive 10 points. For instance, **O.J.**, **Bill Clinton** or **David Letterman** are worth 10. Whereas, in our first entry with **Jimmy Herman** of *North of 60* pictured above with **Richard Mark** of Waskaganish merits two points. The other point -etter is the proximity of the celebrity to the contestant. If you're pictured in the background with **Matthew Coon Come**, you'd receive 1.5. And so on and so forth. So, send those photos in.

THERE'S A SHOW on CNN hosted by two guys who go by the names **Pilgrim and Savidge**. Get it?

FOR YOUR READING pleasure, we give you your reader's poll comments (see p.16): "Love it. Want advice column for drugs, booze, sex, etc.," "Stop picking on my dad....," "Make the Nation thicker- it gets thinner every time," "Whatever happened to Our Pick," "Used to like it. Now too negative," "Doing a fine job. Have heard no complaints yet," "Cover should be in colour, improve the classifieds." And last but certainly not least, "Rez Notes sucks!" An investigation is underway as to the origin of that one.

the Nation

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TWO TALLYMEN SPEAK OUT ON FORESTRY

"THERE IS NOBODY THERE TO HELP US"

An agreement like the JBNQA is needed to protect Crees and their way of life from forestry, said two tallymen who recently spoke with *The Nation*.

Philip Saganash and his brother Malcolm Saganash are the tallymen of two traplines in the northern part of the Waswanipi territory, W9 and W5D. The trees there are small, sparse and take many years to grow back. Loggers for the first time are now moving into their traplines.

They said they are concerned their ancestral lands will be devoid of trees when the time comes to pass them on to their children.

"We were thinking like other people a long time ago, that forestry would never reach us," said one of the brothers.

"But we always made it pretty clear that if anything were to be done of forestry, it would have to come in a package like the Income Security Program."

Concern over forestry continues to grow among Cree tallymen as loggers enter traplines never touched before. Forestry companies have already set out plans to cut in large areas of Mistissini and Nemaska traplines, and to a lesser extent in Waskaganish lands.

A new logging road built by Domtar Inc., known as N-822, is snaking into virgin areas of the Waswanipi territory.

And what is being done by the Cree leadership? The two tallymen did not seem hopeful that they would receive any assistance.

Instead, they spoke of feeling enormous pressure to sign compensation deals that have been promoted by Waswanipi Chief John Kitchen. These deals grant small sums to cover damage to traplines, but the tallymen said the amounts are a pittance—$2,000 each. The Cree Trappers' Association has argued that such deals sign away Cree rights.

"There is nobody there to help us," said the two men.

"They want to compensate us, but we think that isn't good enough. They should think of an agreement like the James Bay Agreement, where income is given to individuals so they can sustain themselves—some kind of a guarantee, because there is no guarantee when you get compensated.

"If you don't agree with the way things are going with those agreements, you'll just lose some money. Take it or leave it. So that is why in a way it was a bind for us. We had no place to go. It was money handed to us with a gun held to our heads."

One of the men said he "hated" himself for taking the $2,000, but couldn't resist pressure from other tallymen afraid of losing the money if everybody didn't sign.

They were told they couldn't stop forestry anyway so they might as well take what little money was on the table.

"That's what we were told, that we can't stop it even if we tried. They're going to cut anyway. That's what we have been told. We're going to get nothing if we take that attitude—that's what they told us. If we don't take compensation, we're going to lose everything."

by Alex Roslin

SPIN CITY IN THE HINTERLANDS

Journalists, you gotta love 'em. What inspires them to write what they write, sometimes God only knows.

Consider the question of forestry. How does the media in Canada cover the forestry industry and its effects on the environment? *The Nation* looked into how the 13 largest Canadian newspapers cover forestry. We discovered that the information Canadians get varies widely depending on where they live and how powerful the local forestry industry is.

Nowhere is the industry more powerful and able to control the media than in Quebec, if we judge by the way forestry is covered here.

We divided the news stories written in the newspapers into three categories: (1) stories written from a pro-forestry business angle or that cover the financial side of the industry; (2) stories critical of forestry (e.g. on environmental impacts); and (3) neutral stories that are neither anti- nor pro-forestry.

We found that Quebec newspapers show a clear bias toward printing pro-forestry stories. In the four French newspapers—*Le Devoir*, *Le Soleil*, *La Presse* and *Le Journal de Montréal*—only 15 per cent of news stories in 1995 raised environmental questions about forestry, while over 70 per cent were pro-forestry. Remember: forestry is Quebec's biggest industry and is even more destructive than in B.C., "The Brazil of the North."

La Presse was the worst, with only one environmental story all year and 37 pro-business stories. *The Montreal Gazette* wasn't much better, printing several stories about the environmental effects of forestry in countries like Germany, Surinam, the Amazon, Chile and B.C., but only two stories about the problems in Quebec.

In the rest of Canada, coverage ranges from not bad in Vancouver, where a strong environmental movement and Native people keep the loggers on their toes, to downright awful. Still, all in all, the average paper outside Quebec printed pro-environment stories 37 per cent of the time and pro-business ones 51 per cent of the time—a much better record than Quebec's media. "Ignorance is bliss."

—Alex Roslin

Praise for Troilus workers

Letter to *The Nation*:

Recently, you published an article on the Troilus Project and the impacts of this project (employment, etc.) for the Cree Nation of Mistissini.

First of all, I agree that the mechanisms put in place by the Council of the Cree Nation of Mistissini have been essential in the success of the goals set out for Troilus. Through their goodwill and understanding, both parties have set up a framework which, if used correctly, will provide positive spin-offs for the Cree Nation as a whole.

However, as we realize the important contributions to the success of the Troilus Project with Cree employment, we must not forget another very important part of this success—the Cree workers themselves.

I think of the workers who took the time to help those with reading and writing problems and made sure that everything was properly understood. The Cree workers who tried in their own ways to help those with personal problems by either making themselves available or asking their families back home to help out in any way they could. The workers who suffered personal losses and made every effort to come back to work as soon as they could. The workers who took time to talk to the workers having difficulty and reminded them of the importance of doing a good job.

The workers who undertook new challenges in jobs they had never done before and quickly learned them. The workers who made efforts to speak French (and English and Cree for the non-Natives) and then were surprised at their own proficiency. These are but a few of the examples that come to mind.

The Cree employees know that not only are the jobs here long-term but that what happens here will have an impact on their children. For some the goal is not only a job for themselves but leaving an impression that will mean that their children will have the same opportunities as anyone else. The Cree employees at Troilus, in the space of a few short months, have done more to undo negative stereotypes than any cultural awareness exchange program could do in tenfold the amount of time. Through this time, they are ensuring a brighter future for their children.

The Troilus Mine has now begun operations and, all told, the presence of Cree workers at the Troilus Project (for Inmet and the contractors) is now around 70 with our targets being met and even surpassed in some instances. Things have not always been easy and there is still a ways to go with certain problems to iron out—but not much of them out of the ordinary I'm glad to say.

Through their efforts and sacrifices, these Cree employees have only reaffirmed my pride as a Cree. On my behalf, I congratulate and thank them immensely.

Andy Baribeau
Cree Employment Coordinator
Inmet Mining — Troilus Project

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Applications for the 1997-98 school year are now being accepted. Scholarship competitions will be held on February 22 nd, 1997. Scholarship candidates must apply by February 17 th, 1997.

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NEGLECTED BURIAL SITES GET NEEDED CARE

William Iserhoff Jr. of South Porcupine and Bill Heavener of Cochrane are already thinking about summer.

The two men are working on a project to give facelifts to forgotten Native burial grounds in the area, starting with the Moose River Cemetery in Canfield Township which they want to see cleaned up and designated as a historical site.

Over the years that cemetery, like many in isolated areas, had become overgrown and neglected. As nature takes its course, trees are beginning to grow in and around the burial sites.

"We must not let this happn for the sake of our loved ones," Iserhoff said.

"Some of our former residents do not know of this cemetery or its location," he said about the Native burial grounds located 60 feet above the Moose River shoreline, which was used by a number of denominations.

He has sent out requests throughout Ontario to families who have loved ones buried there, seeking support to give the much-needed facelift.

"We're trying to get people lined up to help," Heavener said. The two men hope the cemetery work will begin before the fly season does this spring, "a time for new beginnings," and will conclude with a sweetgrass ceremony.

Plans include clearing trees that have grown in and around the burial sites, and from the top of the bank down to the shoreline 60 feet wide by 90 feet long.

A cross will be erected at the very edge of the bank, which will be seen from the train.

A chainlink fence will be erected around the cemetery and a small utility sled will be built for garden tools for future upkeep.

Iserhoff also sent a letter to Minister of Natural Resources Chris Hodgson, bringing his attention to the much-needed facelift. In 1996, the Ontario government complied with Iserhoff's request that surface and mining rights would be withdrawn for this site, removing any danger of prospecting, staking out, sale or lease of the area.

Other burial sites the men would like to see fixed up include one in the Lake Lafrance area and one at New Post. They would llike to know of other forgotten burial grounds that need to be saved, and would appreciate help from any volunteers.

Iserhoff can be reached at: Box 596, South Porcupine, Ont. P0L 1H0. Story by Holly Gagnon (reprinted from The Cochrane Times)

UNEXPECTED VISITORS FROM MONTREAL

Chisasibi residents were recently surprised to find a pair of wayward Montreal youths allegedly selling drugs in the commercial centre and spending what turned out to be counterfeit money.

After a week in town, apparently staying with some local residents, one of the youths was picked up by police and charged with passing counterfeit $50 bills at local stores and the bank.

Chisasibi police chief Samuel House said no countefeit money was found in the youth's possession.

But witnesses can testify that he tried to pass the fake money by buying small items in the store and through other means.

House said he couldn't comment on the allegation of drug dealing, but residents say they witnessed the two youths doing this.

All of 11 fake bills have found so far in circulation in Chisasibi and the bills have the same two serial numbers.

The youth can't be identified because he is protected under the Youth Offenders Act.

He was arrested on Jan. 17 and taken into custody by the SQ. The youth already had a file with Montreal youth protection authorities.

Just before he arrived in Chisasibi, the youth spent time in Radisson where he allegedly passed around more counterfeit $50s.

During his time in Chisasibi, he was allegedly seen trying to sell hash and cocaine. No word on his companion. House said the arrested youth was alone when he was picked up by police. The investigation is continuing.

CANADA BLAMED FOR CRISIS

Indian Affairs has to accept blame for the escalating crisis in Barrière Lake, says Robert Kanatewat.

Kanatewat, a Cree businessman and former chief, was one of two Native Elders on the federal government's mediation team working to resolve the Barrière Lake situation.

He said Barrière Lake is desperately

continued on page 9

INTERNAL AND EXTERNAL POSTING

CREE SCHOOL BOARD

COMPETITION NUMBER: MTL-693

AFFICHAGE INTERNE ET EXTERNE

COMMISSION SCOLAIRE CRIE

NO. DE CONCOURS: MTL-686

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Cree School Board
Commission scolaire Crie

Administrative Technician— Post Secondary Office

Location of Work: Montreal

Nature of Work: Within the framework of the Cree Replacement Program, the Post Secondary office needs a beneficiary of the James Bay Agreement for a position of Administrative Technician. Under the supervision of the Coordinator of Post Secondary Programs, the work of this employee consists of performing various kinds of technical tasks related to the management of financial resources, systems and procedures. The preparation and implementation of standards related to accounting, finance and the data processing function of the program. Futhermore, this employee shall assist in performing various tasks of any administrative nature related to the satisfactory operation of the financial unit.

Required Qualifications:

- To have a college diploma in administration or a diploma or attestation of studies which is recognized as equivalent by the competent authority.
- Ability to speak Cree, English and French is a requirement.

Conditions of Employment: Regular, full-time position
35 hours/week.

Salary: According to salary scale based on experience from $13.38/hr - $20.09/hr.

Beginning of Employment: As soon as possible.

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Always mention competition number: MTL-693

Date of Posting: January 20, 1997

Technicien en Administration Bureau du Post-Secondaire

Lieu de Travail: Montreal

Nature du Travail: Dans le cadre du Programme de remplacement, le bureau du Post-Secondaire recherche un ou une personne qui est bénéficiaire de la convention de la Baie James, pour le poste de technicien(ne) en administration. Sous l'autorité de la Coordonnatrice du programme post-secondaire, le rôle de l'employé(e) consiste à effectuer divers genres de travaux techniques reliés à la gestion des ressources financières et à l'organisation du travail. A l'élaboration et à la mise en application de normes reliées à la comptabilité, la finance et au traitement des données ainsi qu'à exécuter divers travaux à caractère financière en vue d'assurer la bonne marche des opérations.

Qualifications Requises:

- Être titulaire d'un diplôme collégiale en techniques administratives ou être titulaire d'un diplôme ou d'une attestation d'étude dont l'équivalence est reconnue par l'autorité compétente.
- Capacité de parler en cri, anglais et français est nécessaire.

Conditions d'Emploi: Poste régulier, temps plein.
35 hrs/semaine.

Salaire: Selon échelle salariale basée sur l'expérience entre $13.38/hre - $20.09/hre.

Date d'entrée en fonction: Le plus tôt possible.

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Commission Scolaire Crie
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G0W 1C0
Tel.: (418) 923-2764
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Toujours mentionner le no. de concours: MTL-693

Date d'Affichage: le 20 janvier, 1997

END OF POSTING: February 7, 1997
FIN D'AFFICHAGE: le 7 février, 1997

short of Indian Affairs funding and the people live in deplorable conditions that should not exist in Canada. The community of 450 has only 60 homes and many are fit to be condemned. Roofs are caving in, ceilings are coming down and some homes are not even finished. The community doesn't even have its own store, forcing residents to drive 160 km to Maniwaki for shopping.

The lack of housing has forced many residents to leave the community. Those who stayed behind were left to fight it out for what little money there was. This has led to resentment and infighting between various clans in the community.

The community is now divided between traditionalists who oppose forestry and those who have moved away, whose leaders are more pro-forestry and have been getting advice from the logging industry behind the scenes. The pro-forestry side managed to convince the feds to kick out the anti-forestry chief last year. For the last year, the community has had no official chief, no band services or school. The traditionalist side is now in the fourth month of its blockade of a logging road. Hunger and poverty in the community are rampant.

"As far as I am concerned, both sides are to blame, but mainly Indian Affairs. They haven't really made all the efforts they could have," said Kanatewat. "I don't blame those people who moved out. There's nothing there. I wouldn't want to live there. It's pretty dismal."

Kanatewat said the lack of funds has been "very devastating" for the community: "I sympathize with the way the whole thing has happened. It's not the way you should be living in Canada. We're supposed to be decent people living in Canada and look at what we're doing."

Meanwhile, at a press conference in Hull, a top Indian Affairs official denied reports that hunger is widespread in Barrière Lake. The Algonquins issued a call for emergency donations of food and money in early January. "There is no evidence that we have uncovered to substantiate those allegations," responded Gordon Shanks. "Our information is that all services continue to be provided as in past years."

Later in the press conference, Shanks was put on the defensive when reporters asked about whether a lawyer for Domtar, the biggest logger in Algonquin country, was involved in getting rid of anti-forestry chief Jean-Maurice Matchewan. At first Shanks claimed to know nothing about it: "We have no knowledge of that. This is the first time I've heard of that."

Later, however, Shanks backpedalled. He admitted that Domtar lawyer Radha Curpen had advised the pro-forestry Algonquins. This "might have been a conflict (of interest)," he said, but then added: "As soon as we were aware of that the legal counsel was removed."

SAMUEL COX

The muskox in question.

Watch the ice

Fourteen snowmobilers have died so far this winter season while riding, announced the coroner's office. Last year, 31 snowmobilers died between Nov. 1995 and March 1996.

After examining the deaths last year and this year, the coroner's office concludes that many of them were preventable. In most cases, the factors were excessive speed, alcohol consumption, lack of judgement and carelessness.

The coroner stressed the importance of checking the thickness of ice, using groomed trails and going at an appropriate speed.

Go south, HQ!

If at first you don't succeed, try, try again. Once again, Hydro-Quebec is trying to sell power to the U.S. after it got a black eye the last time when it ran into opposition from the Crees and environmentalists.

The U.S. and Quebec have both started deregulating their energy markets, which means companies from the outside can come in to sell power. Quebec will allow U.S. companies to sell here, in exchange for being granted the same right to sell south of the border.

Hydro-Quebec has entered a partnership with Trigen Corp. of New York, which serves more than 1,500 large energy customers at 13 locations in the U.S. Together, they aim to sign up large energy customers in the six New England states and upstate New York.

Feeding the U.S. market was Hydro-Quebec's main justification for wanting to build the Great Whale project.

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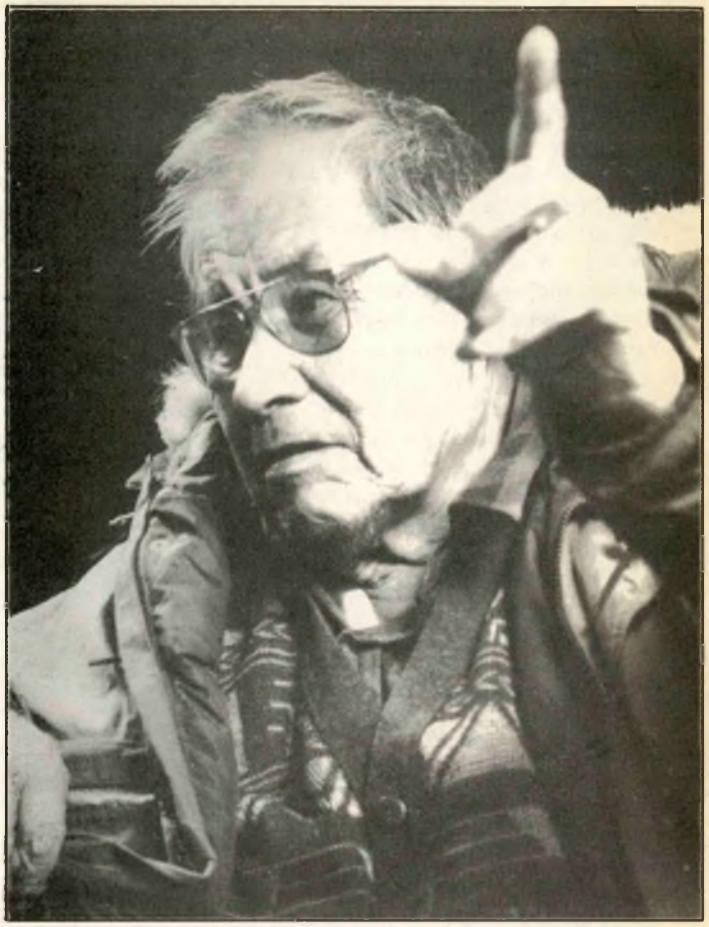

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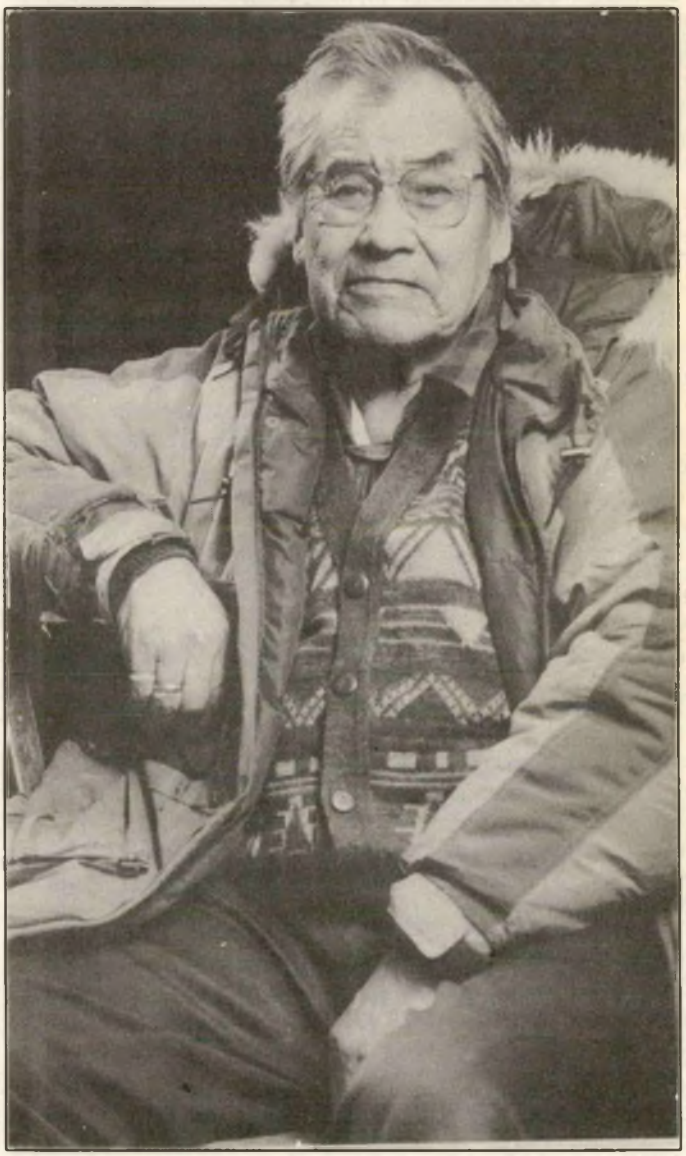
Maashu

Told by Joseph Rupert
Translating and transcribing by Brian Webb
Photos by Neil Diamond
Interview by Ernest Webb



His name was Maashu. There must have been very large people. They used things to take water. Those people were extremely large people. They tried to kill those very large people. When they slept was when they wanted to kill them.

Occasionally, they went to see those giants sleeping on the land. The land would be flooded once those giants have been ripped open. Maashu wanted to do this because he wanted to make something.

Cont'd on page 12

His name was Maashu, the one who did this. He wanted to kill those people. He was collecting and saving things from the land. Maashu was an Iyiyuu.

He made a wooden raft - a large boat. It was flat. He put everything there. He counted what the land had - the land we step on. Maashu knew that the land would be flooded. They said, "The raft will work now." They were a bit far from the sleeping giants because they were making noise while making that raft. He was going to make the land again, once he had killed those ones. The water will then subside and then he will make the earth again.

Then they approached those huge people. They shot their arrows and the water started flowing from the bellies of the giants. They immediately ran to their boat that they made. They just barely grabbed on to their boat when the water was everywhere. They killed off all those giants.

"Do we fortunately have earth," he said to them. "I wonder if we have forgotten earth," Maashu said to his helpers. He discovered that there were two things missing - sand and white caribou moss. "What shall we do?" "We can't make the land that we destroyed because some of it is missing." "We will try to get it." "It must be under the water." The one who busted the water tried to get the two missing things. When they shot their arrows was where the water came from. Maashu wanted to make the land again.

"How shall we do it?" "Let's try to get it under the water." That was what they did. They put one of them under the water but soon drowned and came up stiff. Frog was probably helping out too. They must have been the first ones who were given a try but didn't succeed.

Then there were only two to get sand under the water. I wonder who. I think otter or mink. Well, it was one of those that is a used to water. Mouse was also given a try.

Then there was only one. This was the last one. It was mink. "You are the last one." "Try to get going and be sure to find something under the water." There went mink, swimming around and diving. He asked, "What will I do?" "Tug on the line once you grabbed the earth." Then after a while, the string was going like this.

It must have been deep water. Then mink surfaced. He was already stiffening. He took him and put him on the raft. "You are now the one who got the earth." It was sand and white caribou moss.

That must have been what he didn't put there when he was gathering the things from the land. Maashu was the one who destroyed the land and the one to make it again. He blew on it. I wonder who was the first to see the land. I think it was a four-legged one that he sent first to run. Maashu didn't trust him. He asked, "Is the land big?" "Yes, it's big. From where I ran back from, I can't see the end." The one who ran took a long time. I think it was Caribou who was first to see the land.

"It's going to be Loon's turn now. He'll be fast." Loon was flying around and took a long time. He took all day then turned back flying. Maashu asked, "Is the land big?" "Yes, it's very big," Loon answered. "From where I flew back, I can't see the end." Maashu rejected the four-legged one because he must have thought that he wasn't running fast enough. Land was all over the place.

He made the land again. He blew on the earth in this direction and the land and water was now visible in that direction. That was what I heard about him - he only blew on it. His name was Maashu.

"We will make another thing," they said. "We will make the months." Maashu asked, "How many will there be in one year?" No one knew. Toad was sitting there. She looked at her hand. She has three fingers on each hand. She stretched out her hand like this and said, "I wish there could be this many months." She was told to shut up and was not obeyed. They didn't know how many months there would be in a year.

The others that have many spots on their backs said, "I wish there could be this many months." "It won't work because Iyiyuu will not survive when he grows." Iyiyuu won't survive with those number of months." The number of hair on the caribou's antlers was also a suggestion. That's how many months there would have been in a year if he was obeyed. "Who will survive for one year with that many months." "They won't be that number."

"Are we cruel to our older sister?" Toad has three fingers on one hand and three on the other. There would have been six months in a year. "Our older sister must be telling the truth. Her months must be that number."

I wanted to talk about something else about him. When they were floating in their boat, the boat was nudged. Maashu then felt it. He said, "Who is this? Show yourself." Then they emerged. They were giant wolverines. They were very large. They looked very frightening. He said, "Come here. You look very frightening as you come swimming."

Then there was another one who emerged. "Who is this? Show yourself." Here were giant beavers. They swam around their boat wanting to eat it. Maashu said to them, "Swim here. Swim to my boat. Be glad that you will be chewing up wood." The giant beavers swam showing their teeth. He told to swim around the boat showing their teeth. They swam around his boat and that was when Maashu broke their teeth. "Here you were trying to chew up my boat. I'm finishing you all." He destroyed their teeth so they couldn't eat. The giant beavers must have starved after that.

Jacques Pelletier, Métro grocery store owner, downtown Val-d'Or.

Jacques Pelletier was always stressed out. So we suggested he get away from his office.

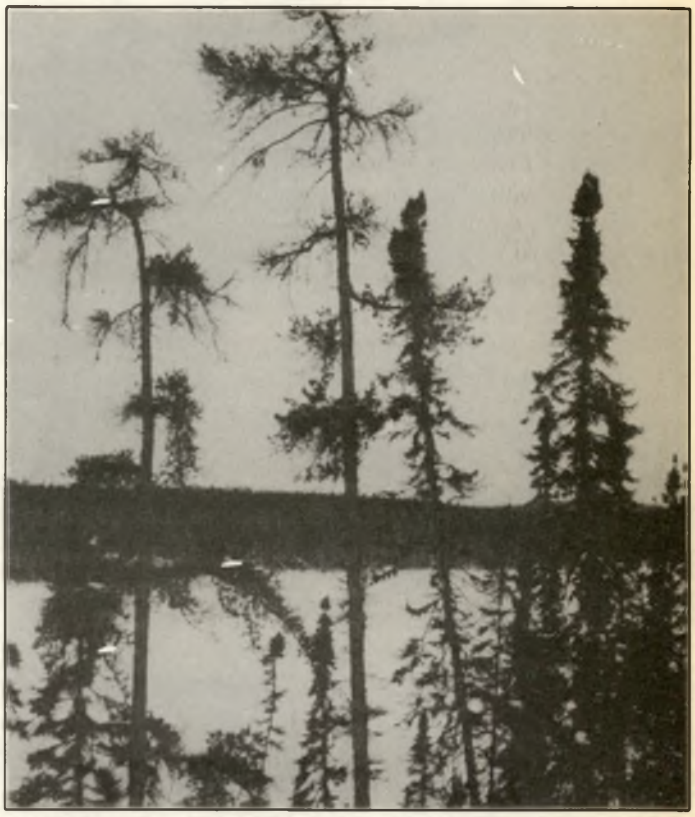
Ever since he received his Companion wireless phone, Jacques Pelletier has been a more relaxed man. Instead of installing a system of intercoms and walkie-talkies, Jacques followed the advice of his Télébec representative and chose an independent personal communication system. Now he can receive calls from his clients, employees and suppliers no matter where he is in the store. No more running for the office every time the phone rings; Jacques is on the floor, close to his clients, providing the quality service they deserve. Today, thanks to his Companion phone, Jacques is always available... and always smiling.

Télébec
Close to you

A Survivor's Story

Speaking and sharing about an abuse is a part of healing. Daisy Ratt tells us about her abuses, and by her having the courage to speak so openly she shows us that silence can be broken. And for many of us, we are given by her words the hope and that light.

—Marilyn Bearskin Herodier and Irene House



4:20 a.m... Awakened by a noise... footsteps... walking up the stairs... wondering who is home... or who came in... then later, someone walking out again. I lay there wide awake... couldn't go back to sleep. Then I started thinking... feeling sad. I sort of blame myself for my youth in my family. I used to do that. Very dysfunctional... very lost, still walking around at wee hours of the night, that was me. I know there was a dance last night, yes that was me again, recalling me youth days... Then my mind wandered off... thinking, "I wonder who is drinking or drugging tonight." My mind went farther back to the meeting that was held two weeks ago about alcohol and drug abuse. I went to the meeting... I see a lot of people in my family, my friends, my people... very concerned. I listened, I observed, the reactions, the tone of their voices, confusion. There was so much pain, hurts, hatred, resentments, pointing fingers and a lot of sadness. I wondered, "Do they understand?" Yes some do, I could hear some trying to explain where alcoholism is coming from, but no, a lot don't understand, or they are in denial, in guilt, in shame. I recall the Chief saying, "Respect each other as someone shares, no matter who they are, young or old." But there was no respect, others mumbling, others joking on when someone speaks, others making facial expressions, a lot of negative reactions. I thought, "No wonder our community is sick. We make ourselves sick by these negative reactions and attitudes."

> "A lot of us have carried so much burden, we are just passing this on to our children."

Long before alcohol and drugs, long before bootlegging and drug dealing in our communities, there was already abuse. There was mental, physical, emotional, spiritual, verbal, psychological and sexual abuse. Alcohol and drugs are recent EXTENSIONS of abuse. There are so many abuses today—Gambling, Batteredness, Negligence, Vandalism, Laziness, Workaholics, Money and Materialistic Oppression, Stealing, Cheating, Religion, etc. Nothing is really balancing anymore. Let's ask ourselves, "Which category am I?" It didn't start from alcohol and drugs. It didn't start from bootlegging and drug dealing. This is just another extension. These bootleggers or drug dealers are people, our people—if you believe in God, God's children. There are positive ways to deal with these issues instead of doing things angrily. If we start dealing with things negatively, things are bound to get worse. Besides, the youth never started this problem, they are acting up because they are tired of us nagging them, blaming them, putting them down. How are we going to have a better future if we adults, Elders don't grow up? Our better future is when each of us starts focusing on ourselves, starts cleaning what's inside of us. A lot of us have carried so much burden, we are just passing this on to our children.

Let me share a little bit about myself. I, too, once used alcohol and drugs. I know what it's like to be an alcoholic, as a matter of fact, of being a victim of almost all of the abuses. It didn't change until I wanted to change. I was sick of being sick. In April 1990, I finally got to the final stage of my alcoholism. I couldn't run away any more. Wherever I went my problem was always right there. On the day of my 37th birthday, I was admitted to the treatment centre in Oka. Because I was so ashamed I didn't even want anybody to know that I was going in. Only a few friends knew and my immediate family, but I knew some didn't understand why, because I didn't understand what treatment was either.

My impression about the treatment was feeling safe in that house. I was not the only one there. My expectations were that they would teach me how to drink slowly or socially. I was also a liar, but I couldn't lie to these people. They were experts. Little did I know what I got myself into. They told me it was not my alcoholism, but that I had to dig into the past. I asked myself angrily, What past?

Who wants to know my past? There was nothing to be proud of, that was my attitude. I had so much to blame on others for why I drank. Well, my counselor saw through me, she was an expert. By the end of the sixth week, I was able to admit one thing, that I was an alcoholic. In the treatment, there I realized why I drank, why I was so unhappy, why I had nightmares about a child who had so much fear, loneliness, anger, sadness and sickness. In the treatment I was given tools on how to deal with different issues about my past, especially my childhood. I was told I had to clean out my system inside in order for me to feel better. Today, I realize why I used alcohol and drugs. I was only covering up my feelings, because there was no other way. I wanted to forget my pains, hurts, anger, etc. I came to a point where I had no feelings at all. Numb! Drank myself to numbness. I abused myself because I thought I was no good for nothing, nobody cared. I wanted to die a lot of times, I was even suicidal, because as a child I was sexually abused more than once. As a child, I was physically abused. In my growing up years I was verbally abused, mentally abused, psychologically abused. But who cared? I didn't care. I wanted to hurt everyone, anyone that came in my way, because I blamed everyone, anyone, about my life. That was my attitude. But you know what? Someone did care. He was always there to watch me. My Creator cared. He always sent someone to watch and look after me, but I didn't realize that. He saved me for a reason.

Today, I can say I am a survivor of different abuses. Even to this day, I still get tests, but I know how to handle them now. Native people all over have helped me through my healing. I am grateful that I have found honesty, faith, trust and other positive attitudes. I am also saying I'm not perfect. I will never be perfect. I still have my bad days, my ups and downs, just like everyone else. All I'm saying is, I was taught how to handle negative things when they cross my path. This recovery and healing is a life time process. Today, I am not ashamed of myself. What I experienced in the past, I can now use myself, as a tool. I have to let go of most of my abuses and I am still working on other abuses. I have also worked on forgiving people who have abused me. Some are gone in this world. That too, I was taught how to forgive them. But first, I had to forgive myself and love myself before I could go on. I understand now why my life has turned out the way it did. I became an abuser myself, in many ways.

Today, I carry another load of pain. Some of you may be aware of the accident a year ago in the fall. I am going through a grieving process. And also another one, this one I don't know if I should grieve or not. I can't grieve because this is unknown. My missing nephew, Kevin, this is the hardest part, not knowing what really happened. So you see my friends, like I said earlier on, it's a life-time process. Even though these incidents occurred during my healing process, I know now alcohol and drugs would not be the answer. If I went back today, I would be back to square one, but in worse shape. We are told we are tested, temptation every day, but as long as we recognize them we are doing okay, at least for the day.

So you see my friends, there are resources out there, there are resource people out there too. If you want to get well, it's just waiting for you. It doesn't come to you, or maybe it does, but you don't see it. What I did was I looked for it and I found it. You, too, can make the move. Yes, it was hard. Trying to be good is the hardest, but if you really want it, it helps! It helped me, it worked for me and I am still here.

Every day I thank the Creator, God, my Higher Power, for helping me get back on my own two feet again, for watching over me when I couldn't watch myself, for giving me another chance to live again in a better understanding and for the guiidance through my healing. I know I have to do my part to watch over myself too! So that way I can walk hand-in-hand with Him. I am not a perfect person and I don't think I'll ever be, but as long as I can watch the ground I walk on then I'll do just fine. I don't want to judge anyone because of my past mistakes. I only want to be equal with everyone. I came this far to heal and if I ever go off the track, I have only myself to blame.

So you see, this is just a little part of my life story. Today, I am happier because I have more understanding of who I am and a better tomorrow for myself and family. I share these stories with my family, my children, not all of them yet, I know they can only handle so much. I share these because I love them and I don't really want them to go through what I went through. I want my children, my grandchildren, at least to be a role model of healing. I only can share and assist them daily as they walk in this path.

I share this story because I care about life and I care about you out there who are still in pain. You, too, can lead a happier and healthy life!

A Survivor of many Abuses
Daisy Ratt

READER'S POLL *Results*

Congratulations to ***Dorothy Gull***, from Waswanipi, the Winner of our Readers Poll Contest!

Dorothy and her guest will enjoy a two night accomodation at the Auberge Kanio-Kashee Lodge in Waswanipi plus a dinner for two. They will travel free of charge on Air Creebec, the Airline for the James Bay.

Thanks to all our readers who sent in their responses. Your comments were positive, insightful and interesting. For the most part, the results confirmed our expectations, but there were also some surprises!

The majority of respondents were:
Female
18-30 years of age
Did most of their big shopping trips in Val d'Or and Montreal
Read The Nation every issue (Thanks!)

The most widely read sections in *The Nation* were:
News & Briefs
Rez Notes
Classified Ads

Our readers wanted to see more (in this order):
Community Events & News
Education
Sports
Youth
Women's Issues

Almost everyone said that:
Cree meetings, conferences, etc.
should be held in the James Bay
They want more information
from the Grand Council, Band Councils, and
Cree Leaders, both regionally, and locally.

When looking for jobs, people look both equally at:
post up notices
The Nation

And finally, a question we forgot to ask: What would you like to see *less of* in *The Nation*? Let us know what you think? Send responses to:
The Nation, 5678 Park Avenue,
PO Box 48036, Mtl, QC H2V 4S8
or fax: 514-278-9914

Maamuitaau
On CBC TV

February 15 and 16
For the last three years Cree residents have been able to follow issues and events affecting them through the writings found in The Nation magazine. **Maamuitaau** talks with the owners about their early experiences and struggles in starting up the bi-weekly publication and the response so far from their readership. Also on the show a look at the launch of the James Bay Cree Fiddlers CD which took place in Montreal.

February 22 and 23
Residents of Waskaganish voted in favor of having a road built to their community. Join **Maamuitaau** as we meet with residents to discuss their personal reactions to the decision. Also on the show, a controversial bowhead whale hunt took place recently in the far north. CBC North cameras were there to capture the sights and sounds of this unique event.

Watch **Maamuitaau:**

Saturdays	06:00	SRC
Sundays	07:00	CBMT
	18:00	SRC

(subject to change)

CBC North

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DON'T CRY OVER SOUR MILK!

This section will appear every now and then as people contribute to it. It is a compilation of hints, tips and teachings that are passed on. These days not to many of those little tips make it to new generations. While I've heard of some of the tips, I didn't know of all of them. Most of the tips below were taken from a book put out in the early 70's by the women of the Anglican Church in Moose Factory. You may contact me at the Nation to contribute and pass on your tip.

William Nicholls

Household and Bush

When milk is starting to turn sour, add 2 teaspoons of baking soda and it will be good for another day or so. Add a pinch of baking soda to souring cream- this will sweeten it.

To sharpen dull scissors, cut a piece of sandpaper into strips with them.

To lessen the chance of eggs cracking when boiling start them in cold water.

When eggs crack during boiling, pour in 1 teaspoon salt or a few drops of vinegar or lemon will keep the whites from spreading all over the pan.

Eggs can be kept fresher longer by turning them over every so often during the week.

For hard to peel oranges, pour boiling water over the oranges and let stand for 5 minutes. The peels will come off very easily and so will all the white stuff under the peel. The peel is permanently loosened by this technique, so it can be done in advance and still refrigerate the oranges. This process will make the oranges juicier.

Another trick with oranges is to heat an oven to 350 F and put in the peels of an orange. Leave the oven door open. This is a great air conditioner.

To separate egg yolks from the white stuff try a cloth moistened in cold water. Touch it to the yolk and it will cling.

Soggy crackers: put on a cookie sheet at 375 degrees Fahrenheit for 2-3 minutes.

To cut soft cheese, heat the knife.

Tomatoes will keep longer if stored stem side down. They have a nicer flavour if stored at room temperature.

When boiling old, stale potatoes, add a slice of lemon or a teaspoon of vinegar. It helps to bring out the flavour and stops the potatoes from darkening.

To keep butter from burning during frying, add a small amount of cooking oil. It will not brown so fast.

Don't like to take the time to soak beans for homemade beans? Add 1 teaspoon of baking powder to 1 pound of beans. Cover them with water and cook at medium heat until soft (not mushy). This will be in about 40 minutes. Add water as necessary. At the end drain water and bake as usual.

Baking powder substitute: 1 teaspoon of tarter, 1 teaspoon baking soda, 1/2 teaspoon salt. make to use as it will not keep.

Paints and Dyes

White and red paints derived from colored earth like ochre. Give Wemindji a call.

Red berry juice.

Gall bladder of geese and ducks. Give a blue-green color.

Black paint came from charcoal. Boil the wood first.

Grease and water formed the bases for mixing colors.

Red willow bark boiled gives a red dye.

Berries of a willow like plant. Black dye by boiling the plant.

Remedies

Sips of warm goose grease for coughs. Goose or bear grease (even rancid) is rubbed on backs for colds.

Beaver castor is used for poultices. The oil from the castors can be used for sores and rashes. The liquid from boiling and strained castors was used to prevent hemorrhaging after childbirth.

Headaches were cured by tying a piece of cloth or bandanna around the head.

Cabbage willow. Strip bark. Chew the inner white. Can be used on open cuts to stop bleeding.

Red Willow: boil it, strain it and drink it to stop vomiting. Red willow can also be used to tan hides or dye fish nets to a rust colour.

Cree Forests Must Benefit The Crees

Clearcutting on Mistissini lands

Cree Forests are the setting for the traditional Cree way of life.

The James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement guarantees protections for the Cree way of life even when forestry, mining and hydro-electric projects come to the land.

Quebec allows forest companies to clear-cut the land and thereby destroy the Cree traditional way of life. This is in violation of the Agreement.

Forestry should be done in a way that preserves the natural environment, including water bodies and animal habitats.

Today forestry operations take too many trees from the land. Volumes per unit area must be decreased.

The right to pursue the Cree traditional way of life is a collective right of the Cree people which cannot be sold by individuals.

Whether the forest is cut for logging purposes or whether it is preserved for traditional hunting, it is important that the forests benefit the Cree people of today and our children and their children.

Mamou Chigaeeyaychigaboniw

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Grand Council of the Crees (of Quebec)
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CREE REGIONAL AUTHORITY
ADMINISTRATION RÉGIONALE CRIE

Not worth the worry

Exercise will prevent many age
related deteriorations
weakening bones and such
Oh those lacking joints
every hour spent exercising buys
another two or three hours of life

I love old people
I should, because I'm one of them
when we get old we lose our hair, our
teeth, we feel worn out, our eyes get
dimmer, our skin flakes
we groan and moan, and yet
we want to live and have someone
love us

I really get angry though, some of us
are so touchy. Unexepectly I said one
day whatever happened to that retirement
home. Someone told me, we don't need
one at Chisasibi
Respect and honouring the elders
Do we really recognize honour and respect
when I was small my parents
encourage me to take responsibilities
I had to grow up fast.

An idea was started when my late uncle
Josie was alive
The project was to have a retirement
home or nursing home
I remember they had Council meetings

After my late uncle got sick and died
nothing was done the idea died with
him

But once again I'm reminded and should
remind others, we do need
such a residence

When we are first time parents we
worry taking care of such a small
infant
Nothing produces quite so much
anxiety and frustration
I've taken care of my old parents
it's the same way

In the old days old people did not
just sit and vegetate
they were self sufficient
they forget about themselves and
reach out to others
maybe this will happen to the very
lonely old people, who are alone
if they have a residence

We shouldn't let things slide by
we should remember we're doing
things differently today than we
did yesterday

After all we don't have a magical recipe
for eternal youth
The years creep on whatever
your age

Margaret Cromarty

It was a time

A time when families
lived to-gether in one teepee
the teepee was full of children
and grown ups too

There were no problems
everyone living to-gether
there were no rules
no three's a crowd situations

The good old days
A teepee full of relatives
the first who was up in the morning
made the early morning fire

Children were nice
old elders happy
times when families stayed close
and everyone shared

There were no bottles to smash
no garbage to be dealt with
we loved the oldest person
there was no frustration

Everything was taken
from our mother earth
we learned from birth
not to waste

We understood then

Margaret Sam Cromarty, 1997

turn to page 20 for more

Introducing
the limited edition of
The Cree Health Board's
"OUR HOME IS SMOKE FREE" POSTER
If you weren't lucky enough to find your own copy of the special poster in this *Nation*, look for one in upcoming issues.
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CROMARTY

Don't cut the flowers

Two young people
full of life
they said let's end boredom
do drugs and smoke

One said to the other
let's do more and more
it's fun besides
who would know

They were friends
they did not know
when cut, flowers suffer and died

The two young people
make a bad choice
the price they paid
being restless and unconcerned

Don't cut the flowers
the young people of this land
don't hurt them with drugs
don't burn them like grass
Let's see the flowers bloom
help them grow strong
beautiful and alive
here and everywhere

Margaret Sam Cromarty

What will the future bring

Will you be Grand Chief (continue to help others)
Will you be a politician (make enemies)
Will you be a teacher (and educate)
Will you be a nurse (and cure)
Will you be a hero (quickly forgotten)
Will you be a drop out (or even worse)
Will you be a Secretary (be in charge)
Will you be a Millionaire (never be happy or what)
Or will you be content with simple things

Be happy with what you have

Margaret Sam Cromarty, 1997

An eagle flew by

One day, eagle flew by,
wings spread with wisdom,
eyes devoting like thunder,
sounds of dignity in trust,
apacious air we breathe,
freedom it has we need,
screaming out for peace,

snowflakes embraced by wings—in white,
rain to the ground by all is—tear drops,
guardians black feathers for—darkness,
sunshine yellow nose for—light,

its resemblance
and
appearance

how glamorous.

how respected.

—very wise—

A. M. Mayappo
Eastmain

Untitled

You can see it in their little eyes.
The hurt, the pain, the loneliness.
Of what it's doing to them when you
take that drink
Because I know, I've been there and
I can never forget their little eyes. Sometimes
you can still see the anger, the doubt.
It's been a year now, since I've changed my life
and it has been a good year.
I see the difference now, in their little eyes
I see Hope, Love, Strength and Happiness
and I would never want to change that again
not for anything in this world.
Not for drugs and alcohol
Because the love I have for them and the love
they have for me is better than anything
in this world.

Anonymous

To a sweet little boy named Dylan Jordan Davis Mayappo. Born January 18, 1991

D is for determined, a dear little man
Y is for year round, a gentle hand
L is for leader in all you endeavour
A is for affectionate so bright and clever
N is for never ending the joy impart

Dylan dear to our hearts, Happy 6th Birthday. We love you from Mom Marcia, grandparents Roderick and Gracie, uncle Jonathan & Sis Rachel.

Mother, I love you

You are my mother and I love you
I know sometimes we viewed things
differently, somehow we corrected them.
We've had our ups and downs, but we
overcame them with the help of God.

Mother, please forgive me for all the
pain and hurt I've caused you, for all
those times I broke you heart. If
there was some way I could heal all
that, I would.

Mother, the greatest gift I can give
you is my love. A love that will never
fade away, a love that'll remain forever.
Mother, without your love my life would
not have been complete, because you
taught me the very true meaning of
Love.

So, mother I would like to take this
time to let everyone know how thankful
I am for being you, for your encouragement
understanding and most of all I want to
thank-you for your Love. Mother,
I love you.

All my love,
Your daughter,
Elizabeth Trapper

Dedicated to my mother, Flora Laura Trapper

Robert Bearskin

I remember Grandfather greeting us with a smile when we visited him. He enjoyed visits from all of his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. We could speak easily with him on any topic from healing herbs to child-rearing to politics. We enjoyed his stories of when he was growing up. He had a great memory.

His belief that anything is possible led him to discover new things. Grandfather was a great hunter, he provided well for his family. His knowledge of the land brought him many a good hunt and he shared this with families that stayed with them.

Grandfather and Grandmother worked hard together in raising a family. As the first grandchild, I remember being showered with a lot of love and attention from my grandparents. They always had time for us, to answer our questions or teach us new things. When we got into mischief, they never yelled at us. They simply talked to us. My Grandmother died when I was in my teen years. It was a great loss for all of us as a family. I remember the sadness, the emptiness, the grief. I believed then that nothing would ever be the same again, that my Grandfather would be a changed man. It must have been a very difficult period for him but he never lost his love for his children and grandchildren. He taught us that together as a family, we had the strength to overcome these obstacles that we face in life.

Grandfather grew older and couldn't hunt any more but he never complained. Instead he gave his love and knowledge of the land, animals and people to his children and grandchildren. He still came and lived in the bush with us during the goose break. It was our turn to care for him. We took turns helping him when he needed it. He never lost his sense of humour.

Now that he has passed on, we feel the emptiness, the sadness and the grief but we have pulled together as a family and had the strength to carry on. The grandchildren have married and have children of their own. When I see these great-grandchildren, I feel the love and the trust that Grandfather has taught us. Grandfather, if you can hear me, we miss you very much.

Annie Bearskin
Chisasibi

Loving memory

In memory of my aunt, my friend,
Gracie Sally Bearskin
who died on October 15, 1995.
She was chosen to live in a different kind
of paradise.
Chosen from God, Our Creator,
She now lives free and happy.
Gracie had a special bond with her relatives,
friends and also her daughter Sarah-Jane.
She left us memories that linger,
through our hearts and minds.
Gracie loved to show to others of what she had,
and had accomplished for herself and for others.
She will always be remembered for who she was,
and what she did for others.
I will never forget her laughter and all those,
days and nights we would talk about anything.
She was an amazing person and she was fun
to be with.
The tears that I shed of sorrow
I will not shed any more.
The tears that I shed are tears of joy.
For now I know she lives peacefully,
with our Creator and lives happy and free.

Sylvia Bearskin

In loving memory of our late son David Robert Louttit Jr.
January 7, 1982 - November 25, 1990

Letting go...

i saw you as an infant
crying to be fed, crying to be changed, crying to be held
oh, how you brought such joy fr being my first son

i saw you as a toddler
experiencing life without fear
oh, how you'd love to play, sing and dance

i saw you as a little boy
with your beautiful smile
oh, how you'd share your hurts, your dreams, your laughter

i saw you as a youth
your prayers for others in need
oh, how you'd make me proud

i saw you as a man
your battle of this dreadful disease... cancer
oh, the pain without painkillers, your strong faith in the Creator

i saw you as a grandfather
your acceptance of life, your patience, your wisdom, your love
oh, how you'd brought such kindness, gentleness to little children

i saw your completeness in the circle of life on earth
for a short time
oh, how you brought such wonderful gifts from the Peacemaker.

Written by Margaret Spencer Louttit
October 31, 1996

In loving memory of our late son David, who passed away on November 25, 1990 in Sault Ste-Marie, Ontario. He was eight years old. His last words were: "Mom, Dad... the time has come..." and kissed us both good-bye.

Dedicated to our families and to the people of Chisasibi for their support during our difficult time, and to both the traditional and western medicine people and their helpers for trying their best to help David, especially to the Pine family in Garden River, Sault Ste-Marie, Ontario for always being there for us.

CLASSIFIEDS

Love and prayers, Diana, Jimmie, Jordan, Hayley and baby Eternity.

I would like to say hello to a friend of mine in Chisasibi. Her name is Valerie Nine O'clock. How are you doing Val? I think about you a lot but I will see you soon. I will be counting the days. Why don't you call me, you know where I am or write to me. You know what I was thinking, may be you should come up to see me cause I want to see you too. Valerie, don't let anyone talk you out of seeing me cause nobody owns you but yourself. Nobody can tell you what to do. Oh, almost forgot, Merry Christmas and happy new year. See how the both of us do in 1997. I really want to know you. I will go for now but I will write you again. I love you Valerie. From D. Moses.

I just wanna wish a happy new year to all my friends in Whapmagoostui. Donna R., Diane G., Judy M., Sheila M., Mina P., Jeannie (Yoshi) Mam., Susie (Yogi) R., Sarah (Native) M., Sarah A., Valerina B., Hannah K., Brenda S., Rachel K., Ruby A., Juliet N. and Kathleen K. and to all my sisters, brothers, Steven, Job, Emily, Minnie, Debra, Rebecca, Mina and my nephews, nieces and my parents Mary and Sandy Masty. A special person in Chisasibi, Gordon S. From Patricia Masty (Whap.)

To my friend Priscilla Jolly. Hi. Hope you're doing great. I just want to let you know that I miss you. From Girl in Mist. P.S. Take care. C ya soon.

I would like to say to my cousin Sonia Petawabano in Chisasibi. From your cousin Emma C. in Mist. P.S. Take care of yourselves.

Hello over there. I was just remembering all the fun that we used to have during the summer in the CS. Maybe I'll see you soon. From someone over here. P.S. Don't eat too many poutines.

I would like to say hi to a friend of mine I lost contact with. Please call me at my home phone #. You'll know who you are. Our secret code is "Friendly Friend" Please get in touch.

To my secret pal Janie M. Wabanonick. I'm sorry that you haven't heard from me. I just want to wish you a merry Christmas and a happy new year. So, see you soon! From your secret pal who cares for you. Jesus loves U!

I would like to say hi to my best friend Darryl Neeposh in Mist. I wish you were here with me I would give you a happy new year hug and kiss that would last all year round. From Rebecca Otter (spuds) Take care? xoxoxoxo

---

To my KooKum Nellie Trapper of Moose factory and all the family, my dad, Mikey Trapper, Aunt Shannon, Cousin Dawn and Thomas and also Lillian Trapper of Ottawa. Thank you all for the Christmas and birthday gifts I received from you all. My Christmas was very special to me which I am very grateful to have you all as part of my family. Stay in touch so that I will get to know you all well as the years come and go. Sending my kisses and hugs to you all and also to my great grandparents, Edddie and Caroline Trapper. Your loving granddaughter, Cherish Joy Mianscum. Mistissini.

I would like to extend my most heartfelt congratulations to all youth whose beautiful work is on the new Cree Nation Youth Council CD and tape. I am a mother an d grandmother who has always believed young people can and will do wonders for the Cree Nation and this is one of them! I will always be a strong supporter and an ever devoted fan. Love you all and thank you so much!

Joyeux Noel et Bonne Annee a ma famille qui sont au Nord. Il sagit de Pearl Weistche, Charmaine, Willis, vous souhait le meilleur moment agreeable durant le temps des fetes meme si mon absence vous semble difficile, vous etes tous dans mon coeur et dans ma pensee que la paix et la joie soit avec vous.

Women, members of cultural communities and visible minority groups are encouraged to apply.

COMMUNAUTÉ URBAINE DE MONTRÉAL

APPOINTMENT OF NEW MEMBERS TO THE MUC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

ON INTERCULTURAL AND INTERRACIAL RELATIONS

Created in August of 1985, the Advisory Committee on Intercultural and Interracial Relations (CCRII) has the mandate to promote tolerance, citizen equality and the fight against institutional racism within the Montreal Urban Community. The role of the committee, is to recommend to the President of the Executive Committee, policies and programs which include principles of sensitivity and understanding, communication and collaboration with cultural groups, particularly for the services of the MUC with direct contact with citizens in the execution of their functions.

The committee is comprised of sixteen (16) volunteer members who originate from ethnocultural communities or who work to improve relations between communities.

A number of positions are currently vacant at the CCRII for which we are seeking candidates. All persons interested in becoming members of CCRII must forward their curriculum vitae and a fully completed questionnaire, obtainable at the Secretariat of the Montreal Urban Community, at 1550 Metcalfe, Room 1400, Montréal.

The candidates will be evaluated on the following criteria :

1- Knowledge of the matters related to ethnocultural relations
2- Involved in your respective community
3- Knowledge or experience in the fields covered by the Montreal Urban Community:
- Public safety
- Environment
- Arts and Culture
- Recreation
- Economic Development
- Public Transportation
- Urban Planning

4- Ability to speak French
5- Reside in the territory of the MUC
6- Be available from 15 to 20 hours per month

The members of the Advisory Committee are named by the Executive Committee of the Montreal Urban Community upon recommendation from a selection committee.

For further information, please contact Ms. Fadima Diallo at 280-4018.

Candidacies must be received no later than February 14, 1997 at the following address:

CCRII Selection Committee
Montreal Urban Community
1550 Metcalfe, Rm 1400
Montréal, Québec
H3A 3P1

CLASSIFIEDS

children which we'll never forget. May your soul rest in peace. Till we'll meet again. Love, sister in law Eva.

My deepest thanks to all my Cree friends who joined me in prayer during Benoit's, the littler boy I loved most, in his last days of his ten year fight against leukemia. The Lord finally called him home on December 15, 1996. We, his family and friends, will dearly miss him, but no one who knew him will forget his courage and love. He was an inspiration to all who knew him and there will always be a special spot in our hearts for him. (Helene, Ste. Adele.)

300-PERSONALS

Nadine Boudreau in NB, comment ca va? Ca va tres bien ici a Chisasibi. Coline c'est plate!!! Vien nous visiter bientot. From your friends. (Les maudites sauvages) P.S. Dit bonjour a Superman. It was nice hearing from you during the holidays.

Looking for female non smoker to share spacious, interesting 5 1/2. Room furnished (opt.) Metro Laurier, $345. All included. Pamela. 849-5779.

We would like to wish a merry Christmas and a happy New Year to Nannette and the boys.

mazda

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Nation calendar

Beesum would like to acknowledge
ELVIS WEAPENICAPPO
as the mystery photographer
for the months of January and March.
Both photos were taken
near Eastmain, km 409,
on his father's trapline.
Thanks Elvis!

CLASSIFIEDS

proud to have a son like you. Please listen in school. Love mom and dad. xox (Nem.)

Birthday greetings for a special daughter Nicole Tanoush on January 18. May your day be as special as you are. Good luck in school. Many more to come. Love, mom and dad. xox. (Nem.)

Happy birthday to my mom Emma Longchap on Dec. 7, 1996. You are a great mom. I thank God fro a mom like you. You are very special to me. ILY and I miss you. From daughter RL (Mist)

Wishing a happy 21st birthday to a dearest sister Hattie Longchap on Dec. 27, 1996. Heh! sis, Thanks for all the times you've been there for me. ILY. Even though we have tough times. I miss you. Love always, sis, RL (Mist).

We would like to wish our son Lee Roy John Philip Mattawashish a happy 15th birthday on February 18, 1997 and many more to come. We love you Lee Roy. And Lee Roy, please stop growing! Ha! just kidding. From mom and dad. Paula and John Matt.

A special birthday wish going out to my sweet little angel Joelle Michelle Small who will be celebrating her 2nd birthday on Jan. 11, 1997. "I may hold your hand for a while but your heart forever." Love, Mommy.

A special belated birthday to my nephew baby George who had a birthday on August 26, 1996. I really miss you. When are you come to visit once again. Have a happy birthday. I'm sending my love and kisses to you. Love and prayers, Auntie Diana Gull.

I want to wish a happy birthday to my husband Billy Capissisit on January 13, 1997. I wish for you happiness and special times for you to enjoy. I wish for you good health in everything you do. But most of all, I wish for you the trust love there is in the world and that is the love of family. I know how much that means to you, because it will always mean so much to me. happy birthday and happy new year. Love and prayers. With love, your wife Clara C.

Happy birthday to a special friend of mine Krista Maybee who will be celebrating 23 years on February 5, 1997. Hope you have a great time on your special day. I'll help you celebrate once I get up there! Can't wait to see you. Love, your friend Shannon Louttit. xoxox.

Happy 23rd birthday to Patrick Lemay in Val d' Or who will be celebrating his extra special day on Valentine's day! Hope all your wishes come true. Love always, Shannon. xoxoxoxo.

I would like to wish my daddy a very happy birthday which will be on February 14, 1997. daddy, I love you and can't wait to see you!!! Hugs and kisses, Shayna. xoxoxoxo.

Happy birthday wishes to Dakota Hester who will be blowing out 2 candles on February 27, 1997. Hope you have a nice birthday party Kody!!! Love, Shannon, Pat and Shayna. xoxoxoxo.

A very special first birthday wish going out to a precious little girl Samantha Jewell Coonishish on January 1, 1997. May you grow strong and healthy in the years to come

and have many more birthdays. Love you so so much. From your mommy and daddy (Louise and Normand) Mistissini. xoxoxoxoxoxoxoxo.

Happy birthday to our boys Jimmy on Jan 25 and Clayton on Feb. 5. I hope you guys have fun on your special days and many more to come. Luv you guys so much. From mom and dad. Oops, also from Jr. and Shawna.

I wanna wish a happy 18th birthday to Adario Masty. Many more to come. Don't party too much! Your friend, Pat M. Masty. (Whap.) Peace.

I would like to wish a happy birthday to my nephew Emilio Masty (Big Eyes) on Jan. 14, 1997. Many more to come. Love always, your aunt Patricia M. Masty (Whap.) XOXOX

A special belated birthday to my nephew baby George who had a birthday on August 26, 1996. I really miss you. When are you coming down for a visit. Once again, have a happy birthday. I'm sending my love and kisses to you. Love and prayers auntie, Diana Gull.

Happy birthday to my son Dylan on January 18. May your birthday bring you as much joy as you bring to me! Love, Mom.

To our grandson Dylan. Having you for a grandson has been one of life's greatest gifts. For all you have been, for all you are, you're loved very much. Happy birthday. Love always, Grandpa Roderick and Grandma Gracie.

This special birthday greeting is going out to my special mother Emma Wapachee on the 15th of January. May the good Lord bless you with lots of happiness into our family. I love you mom. With lots of love your way, daughter of yours, Brenda Rose. xox.

Happy birthday to you, happy birthday to you, happy birthday gogum. Belated wishes to my grandma Emma on Jan. 15. Happy new year! I love you so much, not only so much but soooo much. Love always, your granddaughter, Valerie Tanya Rose. xox.

To my daddy. happy belated birthday and I love you a lot. You're the greatest dad. Take care! With lots of love, hugs and kisses. Your sweetie pie Valeriesh. xox.

I'd like to wish my one and only love Joseph Jolly Sr. from Nemaska a happy belated birthday. Sorry I'm late but It's never too late to tell you how much I love you with all my heart. May the good lord bless our tiny family with lots of happiness, sharing, patience, caring and most of all , love. With lots of love from Brenda Rose Wapachee. xoxoxoxo.

Belated birthday greetings going out to my Dooda (Grandpa Kenny) on January 8, 1997. Happy birthday and many more to come. I love you loots. From Gooshimsh Valerie. xox.

Happy belated birthday to a very special brother Ernest Coonishish. He will be celebrating his birthday on Dec. 28. Hope you have fun on your birthday. Merry Christmas. From Lynn C. P.S. Don't party too much!

Wishing our son Darwin Craig Cheezo a happy 5th birthday on January 7, 1997.

You're finally five years old. It's what you always wanted to be. We love you. Love, Redfern and Gertie Cheezo.

103-ANNIVERSARIES

I would like to wish a happy anniversary to Debra, Danny Kawapit and Jeannie, David Petagumskum on Jan. 28, 1997. From Patricia M. Masty (Whapmagoostui)

Happy 15th anniversary to my brother in law and sister. Jean Baptiste and Laurie Loon on January 12, 1997. With love, your sister and flowergirl, Elizabeth Trapper.

We would like to wish our dear grandparents Redfern and Agnes Louttit of Moose Factory a happy 55th anniversary which was celebrated on January 2, 1997. We love and miss you both so much and hope to see you soon. We wish you the best in health and happiness in the many years to come. God bless you. From your great grandchildren, Shayna and Shane. xox.

We would like to wish John and Laurie Loon a happy 13th wedding anniversary on January 12, 1997. From your next door neighbor at 136 St. John.

105-OBITUARIES

In loving memory of my sister in law, Nancy Iserhoff Gull. I thank you for showing your love and care to me and my

CLASSIFIEDS

100-BIRTHS

Congratulations to Matthew Ottereyes and Karen Longchap on the birth of their son Joshua Henry Washeskun Longchap Ottereyes born on November 27, 1996, weighing 1 pd., 09 oz. Through God's eyes everything is possible, so don't worry, little Joshua will make it home soon cause he's safe in the arms of God. From Allen Ottereyes and Elizabeth Trapper.

101-BIRTHDAYS

Special second birthday greetings going out to my niece Bryanna Weapenicappo on January 27th. Hope your day is special. Love, Priscilla and Chris.

Belated birthday greetings going out to my sister Dorothy Wabano who celebrated her birthday on January 4th. Hope you didn't party too hard. Love, your sister Priscilla.

Belated birthday greeting going out to Jimmy Wapachee on January 3rd who celebrated his 25th birthday. Love, Diane, Dinah, William and the Weapenicappo family.

Happy 21st birthday to my son Glen and happy 23rd birthday to my son David. You're getting old and it's time to settle down! Happy birthday. Love, Dad.

I want to wish a happy birthday to my sister Edna Neeposh on January 14, 197. I want to wish you all your best dreams come true and that you have success and happiness, a fulfilled heart and laughter. A sister like you is a special gift and I cherish our friendship. You'll always be my precious sister and a special part of me. I love you. With love, sis Clara C.

Happy belated birthday to our little nephew Geoffrey Lee-Roy Capississit on his second birthday on December 15, 96. Hoping your day was as special as you are. We love you so much. Love always, your aunts Minnie, Sharon Cap. Ouje-Bougoumou. xoxoxo.

I would like to wish a happy birthday to my wonderful father Billy Capissisit. I wish you all the best on you special day. Happy birthday and many more wonderful years coming your way and I would like to thank you for all the happy memories you shared with me and I'll never forget your tender loving care for me. Your daughter. I will always love you. With love from my heart, Minnie C. Ouje-Bougoumou

---

Wishing a happy birthday to my cousin in Nemaska Nicole Matoush on January 18, 1997. Wishing you the best in 1997. Hope you enjoy your special day and hope to share many more with you. From cousin Minnie C. in Ouje-Bougoumou. P.S. Take care buddie.

Sending my love and happy birthday wishes to my nephew Gordie McLeod of Moose Factory, Ontario. His birthday is on January 22nd. Happy b-day Gord. I love you and missing you a lot. Take care! All my love from auntie Josephine in Wask.

We would like to wish a happy birthday to Amanda Phoebe Lynn Jonah on Jan. 26. Wishing you the best of luck in the year of "97". So, you're 18 years old. Be good and we love ya! All our love, from mom and sis, Jasmine.

I would like to wish happy 9th birthday to my boyfriend Sheldon Snowboy on January 4, 1997. From Sherilyn.

Birthday wishes going out to Sheldon Snowboy and Eric Rupert on Jan. 4, 1997 and to Raymond Snowboy on Jan. 21, 1997. happy birthday and many more to come. From Sandra, Sherilyn, Dinah-Lee and Amanda.

We would like to wish a happy birthday to a special grandmother Susan on January 1st. Happy birthday Googem. Love, Judy, Norman and Alexa.

Happy birthday to my nephew Darwin Craig on January 7th and also to my sister Joanne on January 1st. Happy birthday to you both. Love always, Judy (Hull, Qc.)

Happy 13th birthday to my nephew Joe Max Loon (Curious George) on January 14th, 1997. Have fun on your birthday and many kisses coming your way, George. Love, your aunt Elizabeth Trapper.

Wishing a happy birthday to Howard Harvey Hester on January 13th. Happy birthday and many more to come. Of course we have to say that we love you! Take care Howie! All our love from jasmine Amanda and Josephine.

Wishing a happy belated happy birthday to Bertie Wapachee January 23rd. On January 27 Gloria Wapachee will be celebrating her birthday. All the best and take care. From all of us in Chisasibi.

We would like to wish happy birthday to a special young man in Mist. Eric Snowboy on January 24 and many more glove saves to come. We luv U and miss U. From all of us here at Joomshoom's big white house in Chis. P.S. Keep up the good work to both of you and Waylon.

Somewhere in Montreal a friend of mine must be celebrating her 21st birthday on the 27th of January. Anyways hope you have a good one, Emma Bearskin. Friend always, Angela E. (Wask.)

Happy birthday to a very good friend of mine. She'll be celebrating her 20th birthday on January 25th. I guess your teen years are over. Wish you all the best. RAW Friend AE.

Happy birthday to our son Johnny on January 10. Through our years together and our moments of happiness. We are

the Nation's CLASSIFIEDS ORDER FORM

Print your classifieds ad clearly in the space provided.

ANNOUNCEMENTS	MARKETPLACE
100 BIRTHS	200 FOR SALE
101 BIRTHDAYS	201 TRIPS
102 WEDDINGS	202 FOR RENT
103 ANNIVERSARIES	300 PERSONALS
104 GRADUATIONS	400 WEST COAST
105 OBITUARIES	500 MISC.

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FREE! PHOTOS ADD $8
For more specials see below...

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CLASSIFIED SPECIALS

Classifieds for individuals are free but you may want to make your classified stand out.

ALL BOLD CHARACTERS:	❑ $4	Photo ($1^{1/2}$ inch high):	❑ $8
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Box around ad:	❑ $4	Card size ($1^{5/8}$"x$3^{5/8}$"):	❑ $45

Fax to (514) 278-9914 or mail it: 5678 Parc Ave., P.O. Box 48036, Montreal, Qc., H2V 4S8
Money order payable: Beesum Communications. *The Nation* reserves the right to modify or refuse a classified. NOTE: We cannot ensure the accuracy of all classifieds.

Nation Special Valentine's Day Issue

"HOW DID YOU MEET?"

If you have an interesting story about how you and your loved one met, please fax them to us by February 1, 1997

ALSO,
Don't forget to send in your VALENTINE'S CLASSIFIEDS by February 1st!
DON'T BE LATE!
We will print the best ones!

FAX: 514-278-9914

The Communities of
Moose Factory & Moosonee, ON
Proudly Present On March 6,7,8, and 9, 1997
"Michael Trapper Memorial Gathering"

Michael Trapper Memorial Gathering

MTMG EVENTS:

LADIES BROOMBALL:
Open, Maximum of 8 teams, Round Robin Game wins $500.00,
Finalists $2,500.00, Champions $5,000.00
Entry Fee-$800.00

MEN'S HOCKEY (40 YRS & OVER-OLD TIMERS)
Maximum of 6 teams, Round Robin Game Wins $500.00,
Finalists-$2,000.00, Champions 4,000.00
Entry $750.00

MEN'S HOCKEY (CLASS "C")
Maximum of 6 teams, Round Robin Game Wins $500.00,
finalists-$2,000.00, Champions-$4,000.00
Entry Fee $750.00

MEN'S HOCKEY (CLASS "B")
Maximum of 6 teams, Round Robin Game Wins $500.00,
Finalists-$3,000.00, Champions-$6,000.00
Entry Fee $750.00

MEN'S HOCKEY (CLASS "A")
Maximum of 8 teams, Round Robin Game Wins $2,000.00,
finalists-$6,000.00, Champions-$15,000.00
Entry Fee $2,000.00

CURLING:
Mixed Bonspiel, 3 events, Enter your own team,
$15,000.00 in cash awards plus MTMG jackets, first 24 teams accepted,
Entry fee $300.00/team

SQUARE DANCING:
Open Categories, Team & Individual Competitions, $8,000.00 in Cash Awards plus MTMG jackets. Adult Category only, limited to 10 dance groups.

SUPER MONSTER BINGO:
To be held Thursday,
March 6, 1996, Limited tickets.
Guaranteed to be another big one!

CASH DRAW:
Chances to win BIG MONEY
during the Gathering.

$250,000.00 IN CASH PRIZES!

COMMUNITY FEAST: "Honouring the MTMG Guests"

FOR INFORMATION,
Please Contact the Following:

Hockey:
Douglas Cheechoo...(705) 658-4643 (work) / (705) 658-4555 (home)
Broomball:
Bob Chilton.....(705) 658-4196 (Work) / (705) 658-4822 (Home)
Curling:
Bob Chilton.....(705) 658-4196 (Work) / (705) 658-4822 (Home)
Bingo:
Bob Chilton.....(705) 658-4196 (Work) / (705) 658-4822 (Home)
Dancing:
Susan McLeod.....(705) 658-4723 (Home)

"Absolutely No Drugs or Alcohol Allowed"

iMAGINE...

A Painter without a brush
A Sculptor without clay
A Jeweler without tools
A Singer without a song
A Performer without a stage
A World without an audience

Close your eyes and imagine this world without colour, beauty and music

Support the dreams of tomorrow's artists and performers!

The Cree Regional Authority is pleased to announce a grant program aimed at the development of the performing and visual arts and literature in the Cree communities. Financial support will be provided to Cree First Nation councils and other organizations for events such as music and cultural festivals, cultural or artistic workshops, artist tours, theatre, and visual art or literary events.

Deadline for applications: February 28, 1997.

Grants will be awarded March 31, 1997 for projects to be carried out between April 1 and September 31, 1997.

Please contact Kenny Mianscum for further information on this program.

Kenny Mianscum
Anischaaukaamikw/
Cree Cultural Institute
project coordinator
c/o Oujé-Bougoumou
Cree Nation Headquarters
Oujé-Bougoumou, QC
G0W 3C0
Tel: (418) 745-3911
Fax: (418) 745-3426

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Activities Calender

Friday, February the 7 th Lebel-sur-Quévillon
5 p.m. to 9 p.m. Teams registration

Saturday, February the 8 th Lebel-sur-Quévillon
8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Teams registration
1 p.m. to 2 p.m. Verification of the snowmobiles and selds before the Prologue
2 p.m. Prologue
5 p.m. Cocktail offered by M. Gérald Lemoyne
Banquet - Banquet pertaining to protocol

Sunday, February the 9 th Lebel-sur-Quévillon
8 a.m. Start
1st leg Malartic, Rouyn - Award presentation
2nd leg Rouyn, La Sarre - Meeting with the town officials
3hd leg La Sarre, Villebois - Reception by the town officials
4th leg Villebois, Val-Paradis - Beaucanton (VVB)
Supper - Bursery prize presentation - Banquet with dance

Monday, February the 10th 5th leg VVB Waskaganish,
Supper - Bursery prize presentation

Tuesday, February the 11th 6th leg
Wakaganish, Eastmain, Wemndji, Chisasibi
Supper - Bursery prize presentation - Banquet organized by the local comity

Wednesday, February the 12th 7th leg
Chisasibi, Whapmagootstui, Kuujjuarapik - Supper

Thursday, February, the 13th 8th leg
Kuujjuarapik, Radisson Banquet at the Auberge Radisson - Fireworks

Friday, February the 14th 9th leg
Radisson, Némaska welcoming comity - Supper - Banquet

Saturday, February the 15th 10th leg
Némaska, Mistissini Banquet - Cultural activities by the Cris nation

Sunday, February the 16th 11th leg
Mistissini, Ouje-Bougoumou, Chapais, Chibougamau
Word from the president (Richard Guay)
Personnalities presentation Bursery and award presentation
Closing banquet

Tel.: (819) 755-3334 Fax: (819) 755-4061
Internet: http://www.novanor.qc.ca.